

By: Davis

S.B. No. 941

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the adoption of rules by the Railroad Commission of Texas regulating the exploration for and production of natural gas in the unincorporated areas of certain counties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 86, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 86.044 to read as follows:

Sec. 86.044. RULES RELATING TO EXPLORATION FOR AND PRODUCTION OF GAS IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) The commission shall adopt rules relating to the exploration for and production of gas in the unincorporated areas of counties that are located wholly or partly above a hydrocarbon-producing geological formation that underlies all or part of two counties:

(1) that are adjacent to one another; and

(2) each of which has a population of more than 1.8 million.

(b) Rules adopted under this section must promote gas exploration and production while securing the quality of life and existing economic interests, including property values and development plans, in the unincorporated areas of the counties described by Subsection (a) by:

(1) establishing unique and heightened standards for the benefit and protection of existing residences, religious institutions, schools, hospitals, and public parks;

1 (2) establishing protective measures related to
2 noise, lighting, water discharge, road damage, gas exploration and
3 production-related traffic routing and congestion, and the impact
4 on and damage to water wells resulting from drilling or production
5 operations;

6 (3) addressing the proximity of gas wells, disposal
7 facilities, compressor stations, gas treatment facilities, and
8 aboveground storage tanks to existing structures;

9 (4) addressing pipeline placement and alignment; and

10 (5) addressing vapor recovery and reduced emission
11 completions.

12 (c) In adopting rules under this section, the commission
13 shall consider ordinances adopted by municipalities in counties
14 described by Subsection (a).

15 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2013, the Railroad
16 Commission of Texas shall adopt rules as required by this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.